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ARA/APU

SEP 1 - 1970

Mr. Alexander Perry, Jr.
Compania Uruguaya de Cemento Portland
Rincon 487
Montevideo, Uruguay

Dear Alex:

It was certainly heartwarming to receive your letter of August 19, expressing the feelings of the Liaison Committee for Uruguay of the Council for Latin America on the tragic death of Dan Mitrione and on Ambassador Adair's handling of a difficult situation. There is a great deal of interest in the Uruguayan situation throughout the United States and, as you may guess, some of the sizeable quantity of mail generated has been critical of our "lack on firmness". Letters such as yours are always a welcome change.

I only wish that terrorists like Mitrione's kidnappers and murderers could have seen the outpouring of feeling in the United States for the family on the day of the funeral. It could not have failed to have had an impact, even on them.

We have tremendous respect for Ambassador Adair and the utmost confidence in him and his staff. It is encouraging to know that you of the business community on the spot share our feeling.

I assure you that the spirit of comprehension and cooperation, to which you refer, will continue as we sustain our mutual efforts to obtain the safe release of those still being held.

With best personal regards,

Sincerely yours,

cc: Ambassador Adair

Charles A. Meyer
Assistant Secretary

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August 27, 1970

Mr. Alexander Perry, Jr.
Compania Uruguaya de Cemento Portland
Rincon 487
Montevideo, Uruguay

Dear Alex:

It was certainly heartwarming to receive your letter of August 19, expressing the feelings of the Liaison Committee for Uruguay of the Council for Latin America on the tragic death of Dan Mitrione and on Ambassador Adair's handling of a difficult situation. There is a great deal of interest in the Uruguayan situation throughout the United States and, as you may guess, some of the sizeable quantity of mail generated has been critical of our "lack on firmness". Letters such as yours are always a welcome change.

It is a real shame that Mitrione's kidnappers and murderers could not have seen the outpouring of feeling for the family by the entire community on the day of the funeral. It could not have failed to have had an impact, even on them.

We have tremendous respect for Ambassador Adair and the utmost confidence in him and his staff. It is encouraging to know that you of the business community on the spot share our feeling.

I assure you that the spirit of comprehension and cooperation, to which you refer, will continue as we sustain our mutual efforts to obtain the safe release of those still being held.

With best personal regards,

Sincerely yours,

Charles A. Meyer
Assistant Secretary

cc: Ambassador Adair

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8-24-70

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THE COUNCIL FOR LATIN AMERICA, Inc.

Liaison Committee for Uruguay

1) CAM
2) APL
Dear Alex -

Montevideo,
August 19th, 1970

The Honorable Charles A. Meyer,
Assistant Secretary of State for
Latin American Affairs
Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Mr. Meyer:

As you are well aware, Uruguay is going through the throes of one of the most emotional incidents in its history, starting with the kidnapping, or attempted kidnapping, of five diplomats or foreigners and culminating, in part, with the death of Dan Mitrione, a United States A.I.D. official.

Dan Mitrione was a friend and acquaintance of the members of the Liaison Committee of The Council for Latin America, and we had the opportunity and pleasure of knowing a dedicated man, who was doing his duty trying to raise the technical levels of the Uruguayan Police force. He was well liked by everybody, not only in the American community, but among those citizens of Uruguay with whom he was in contact and was a credit to our government and to the United States A.I.D. program in this country.

In addition, in the name of the members of the Liaison Committee for Uruguay of The Council for Latin America, we wish to express our feelings as citizens and as foreign residents in Uruguay, for the way in which our State Department, our Ambassador, Mr. Charles Adair, and his staff are carrying out their tasks during this tense and critical period. The decisions taken were extremely difficult ones under the circumstances, which are known to all of us. It is with a sense of pride, that we wish to write these words of commendation with respect to the manner in which our Ambassador carried out the responsibilities of his office during these dark moments in Uruguay's history. Not only the American residents, but the Uruguayan populous, have commented on Ambassador's Adair demeanor and bearing during these last two weeks and, particularly, his public pronouncements on this tragedy.

In expressing these words, both of condolence regarding the untimely death of Dan Mitrione, as well as commendation for the way in which this matter was handled by Ambassador Adair, as

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The Honorable Charles A. Meyer August 19th, 1970

representative of President Nixon, and by our State Department, we felt that some form of public expression should be given in support of those individuals who have been responsible for policy during these tragic events. There are still many difficult decisions to be made, as this matter has not been terminated, as yet, however, we feel sure that the same spirit of comprehension and cooperation will be continued, in our efforts to obtain the release of the individuals still remaining in the hands of this criminal movement.

We might add that many of us have been visited personally or talked with Uruguayan business, political and governmental friends and the reaction from them has been highly laudatory on the manner in which our government has acted, and continues to act, during this difficult period.

Very truly yours,

Alexander Perry, Jr.
Chairman

AP:MLL

cc: Amb.Charles Adair (Montevideo)

RECEIVED ARA
AUG 24 1970

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